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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/441,628	11/16/1999	GREGORY H. PETRAK	39661.830001	4716

20686 7590 05/21/2002

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370 SEVENTEENTH STREET
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED: 05/21/2002

#20

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 3682

1. The Notice of Allowance mailed on March 11, 2002 is withdrawn and is replaced by the following action since applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed on February 7, 2002 was crossed in the mail, therefore, amended claims 42-44 and new claims 45-83 have not been examined on the merit.

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission (Preliminary Amendment) filed on February 7, 2002 (Paper No. 17½) has been entered.

3. The restriction and election without traverse of the species of Figs. 1-15 in Paper No. 6 of parent application are carried over to the instant Continued Prosecution Application.

4. The reply (Preliminary Amendment) filed on February 7, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): applicant did not identify which added claims are read on the elected species of Figs. 1-15. See 37 CFR 1.111, page 2 of the Restriction on February 11, 2000, and Notice of Non-responsive Amendment mailed on March 20, 2001. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

Art Unit: 3682

5. Submission of your response by facsimile transmission is encouraged. Group 3600's facsimile number is (703) 305-7687. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase a patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as the PTO's mail room processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence not permitted by facsimile transmission, see M.P.E.P. 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee which applicant is paying by check should not be submitting by facsimile transmission separately from the check. Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (M.P.E.P. 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to
the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 305-7687) on _____
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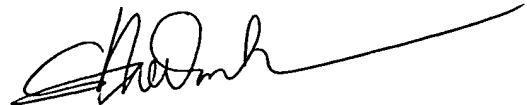
If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and M.P.E.P. 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response after your response has been transmitted by facsimile will only cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application; duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Luong whose telephone number is (703) 308-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM EST to 7:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci, can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7687. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Luong

May 2, 2002



Vinh T. Luong
Primary Examiner